



# The GARzette

The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
March 2020 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 29, Issue 3



## GARS March Meeting: Certificate and Awards Hunting, by Bob Hensey, K4VBM



Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at EAA 690 Hangar

# Message from the President

We've now made the usual Spring transition to Daylight Savings Time and it will be another week or so before I adjust to waking up in the dark, but I will enjoy the extra daylight in the evenings. I guess that means Spring is right around the corner and Ham activities will have to divide time with chores around the house and yard. It also means we might have another hour or so to complete that antenna project after work and after dinner.

We also have some fun operating activities coming up with the Georgia QSO Party on Saturday, April 11. GARS participation will be limited to the Saturday operating session from 2:00pm until midnight since it's Easter weekend. Come on out and plan to help setup on Saturday morning then sit down to operate starting at 2:00pm. Georgia QSO Party Chair, Dave Slotter, W3DJS, is lining things up for a successful operating event. Remember we will be operating from Gwinnett Fire Station 31 on Collins Hill Road across from Georgia Gwinnett College (the same site as Winter Field Day).

Don't forget the Lanier Cluster Dog Show coming up at the end of March at the Gwinnett Fairgrounds. We need volunteers to help for all shifts beginning Thursday morning running through Sunday. We operate from 6



“...Spring is right around the corner and Ham activities will have to divide time with chores around the house and yard.”

AM until 2 PM each day so please volunteer to help any days you can. It's much closer now with the Dog Show being held at the Gwinnett Fairgrounds so volunteering is easy.

Until next month.....

73,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Adams".

WB4QDX, Club President

***"It is not the class of license the Amateur holds, but the class of the Amateur that holds the license."***

[Author Unknown]



# GARS March Meeting and Workshop

## Certificate and Awards Hunting

by Bob Hensey, K4VBM

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 7:00 pm

## GARS Coax Cable Checkup

by David Adcock, KA4KKF

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 7:00 pm

Sports Aviation Complex—Hangar 1  
690 Airport Road  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

**NOTE: Location Entrance to the Hangar has changed! See below link for more details!**  
[Updated Entrance Directions to EAA Hangar](#)

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### **GARS Communications**

<u>2 Meter Repeaters</u> 147.075(+) MHz Tone 82.5 147.255(+) MHz Tone 107.2	<u>53.110 (-1 MHz) No Tone</u> (Offline for Maintenance)
<u>1.25 Meter Repeater</u> 224.580(-) MHz Tone 100.0, 1.6 MHz Offset	<u>Other Resources:</u> <u>APRS</u> 144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR
<u>70 Cm Repeaters</u> 444.525(+) MHz Tone 82.5 442.100(+) MHz Tone 100 442.325(+) MHz Tone 100	<u>D-STAR</u> WD4STR 145.060 + (1.4 MHz) 440.550 + (5 MHz)
<u>6 Meter Repeater</u>	

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*GARzette*.**

Snail Mail Address:  
GARS  
P.O. Box 492531  
Lawrenceville, GA 30049

The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

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If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by e-mail to [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org). Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via e-mail to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

*The GARzette* is published each month with the assistance of Norm Schklar, WA4Z XV who prints copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the news letter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org>

Newsletter Editor: [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org) Bill Eggers—WB2RIS 470-238-9603



# GARS Happenings

## 20 Years ago in the March 2000 GARzette:

- Victor Gann W4VEG takes over as GARzette Editor;
- This month's "On The Air" by Karl Phillips, K4GZZ, features Bob Varone, W4ETN;
- Some photos from the February Dog Show fundraiser;
- A tornado touches down in southwest GA and amateur Radio operators volunteer to help with communications;
- The ARRL names Edwin Petzolt, K1LNC as the winner of the 1999 International Humanitarian Award;
- The StenSat satellite has been deployed, but apparently is malfunctioning.

You can always browse the GARzette archive at <http://www.gars.org/newsletters>

73, *Bill*, WB2RIS, GARzette Editor



## GARS Workshop—Upcoming Changes

Three years ago, I started designing the GARS Workshop – Hams Helping Hams. I made my proposal to the GARS Executive Committee, gained their approval, and we held the first GARS Workshop on September 19, 2017. I was hoping for 12 people in attendance to consider my efforts a success. We had 25 in attendance. I was very happy! Since then, we have held another 25 Monthly Workshops.

Unfortunately, over the last couple of years, my job situation has become more and more demanding and stressful, and my ability to run the GARS Workshop has diminished.

However, I am very happy to announce that Dave Slotter, W3DJS has accepted the lead role and will run the GARS Workshop effective immediately. Please give him your full support.

Thank you!

73 – *Dave Bruse*, W4DTR  
GARS VE-Team Leader, GARS Membership Committee Assistant

## GARS HELP WANTED

- GARzette Editor — Looking for someone to become the next GARzette Editor, starting off as a GARzette Committee member / Assistant Editor. Experience with Microsoft Publisher would be nice, but any experience with Microsoft Office products is helpful. You will be trained in the use of Microsoft Publisher. Most of the content is supplied by others, but occasionally you may wish to write content, especially in your area of expertise. If you are interested, please contact Bill Eggers, WB2RIS at [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org).

If you're interested in volunteering for one of these positions, please contact one of the GARS Officers. Supporting GARS activities is an important part of what we do and help from club members is needed.

[PS— Articles to publish in the GARzette, either written by GARS members or published elsewhere, are always welcome. —Ed.]

# In Other News

## AMSAT Declares End of Mission for Pioneer AO-85 CubeSat

AMSAT reports that the pioneering AMSAT-OSCAR 85 (AO-85) CubeSat, also known as Fox-1A, has gone silent.

"Having not been heard throughout the most recent period of full illumination, it is reasonable to believe the batteries have deteriorated to the point of no longer being able to power the transmitter," AMSAT said this week. "Should some future event cause a cell to open, it is possible the satellite may be heard again, but for now, it is time to declare end-of-mission."

AO-85 was conceived as the first AMSAT CubeSat and designed to be a successor to the popular AO-51 Microsat. AO-85 was launched on October 8, 2015. Its success led to further Fox satellites AO-91, AO-92, AO-95, and RadFxSat2 / Fox-1E, which will be launched later this year.

The Fox-1E transponder was also spun off into a radio system now in orbit on board HuskySat-1, and soon to be in several other university CubeSats. — Thanks to AMSAT News Service



Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/amsat-declares-end-of-mission-for-pioneer-ao-85-cubesat>

## Mississippi ARES® Emergency Coordinator Credits Training for Effective Tornado Response

Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) volunteers in DeSoto County, Mississippi, devoted several days in January to assisting local emergency managers in responding to tornado damage in the region. Desoto County Emergency Coordinator Ricky Chambers, KF5WVJ; Assistant EC Gene Adams, KF5KVL; Tate County EC Brad Kerley, KG5TTU, and Andy Luscomb, AG5FG, reported at 3 AM on January 11 to the DeSoto County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to open a SKYWARN weather watch. After a tornado warning was issued for DeSoto County, Chambers activated an emergency net on a local repeater. Ten minutes into the net, however, the repeater went down, and the net switched to simplex. The net subsequently moved to another operational repeater.

Initial reports of downed trees blocking roadways and an eyewitness report of a possible tornado southwest of Hernando came in just after 5 AM. The ARES team at the EOC began taking damage reports, answering the telephone, and monitoring and taking calls from public safety dispatchers. When the deputy EMA director requested traffic control in Lewisburg, three of the ARES volunteers accompanied EMA director Chris Olson to Lewisburg. Chambers and Kerley assumed traffic control, and Olson asked that Chambers put out a call for ARES/RACES volunteers and EMA reservists to report to the EOC. The ham radio volunteers also handled welfare checks.

A dozen ARES/RACES and EMA reservists returned the next day to conduct door-to-door damage assessment. For the next 10 days, Chambers reported, the DeSoto County volunteers assisted in handling telephone traffic in the EOC, freeing up first responders to do their primary jobs.

"I attribute our effective response to the training we have conducted on a monthly basis," Chambers said, noting that training included recommended ARRL courses. "We were able to see how the Incident Command System worked on a first-hand basis as the incident unfolded, based on the ICS training courses we have taken. My group went from 0 to 110 MPH in seconds, never missing a beat [and] everyone performed on a professional level." — Thanks to DeSoto County and EMA Reservist Coordinator EC Ricky Chambers, KF5WVJ



Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/mississippi-ares-emergency-coordinator-credits-training-for-effective-tornado-response>

# In Other News (cont'd)

## Coronavirus Fears Spur Cancellation, Postponement of Some Ham Radio Events

Additional amateur radio events have been cancelled or postponed as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19) fears.

The Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) has announced the cancellation of several amateur radio events planned for March, in the wake of a government policy requesting that events be canceled, postponed, or reduced in size for the next 2 weeks, saying “events that attract large numbers of people have a large risk of infection.” JARL subsequently requested that all events scheduled in that time frame be canceled or postponed. Affected events include the West Nippon Ham Fair on March 8, the Chugoku Regional Amateur Radio Direction Finding Competition on March 15, and the Kagawa Ham Festival on March 22.

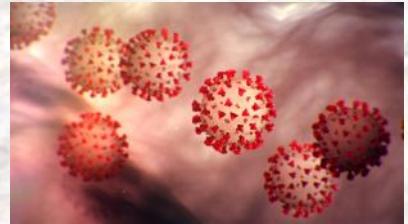
West Nippon Ham Fair organizers said they considered postponing the event for 6 months, but concluded there was no certainty that the coronavirus situation would be resolved by then.

Members of the Nara DX Association Japan have postponed the planned V6J IOTA DXpedition to Murilo Island in the Hall Islands at least until next year or later. “We hope the propagation will be better then,” the group said. “We hope spreading of coronaviruses will be stopped right away.”

In England, the Wythall Radio Club decided this week to cancel its March 15 hamfest. “As a responsible club, we have taken this step to minimize any risks to the expected 400+ visitors and traders from the COVID-19 virus, due to the uncertainties regarding the spread of the virus,” the club said.

In late February, Alex Gromme, 5B4ALX, postponed his March 18 – April 2 T30ET DXpedition to Tarawa (West Kiribati) because of the coronavirus outbreak. The Kiribati Ministry of Health told Gromme that he would need to be quarantined for 14 days in Honiara, Solomon Islands, before getting medical approval to continue on to Kiribati. He’s now looking at October 2020, assuming the COVID-19 situation is resolved by then.

Travel restrictions imposed on individuals entering American Samoa as a result of the coronavirus outbreak caused Swains Island W8S DXpedition organizers to postpone that DXpedition until later in the year. The team members were unable to comply with a 14-day mandatory quarantine in Hawaii. The DXpedition announced tentative dates of September 23 – October 6. — Thanks to JARL, Southgate Amateur Radio News, OPDX



Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/coronavirus-fears-spur-cancellation-postponement-of-some-ham-radio-events>

## Saint Patrick's Day Special Event Set

Many radio amateurs around the world will celebrate Saint Patrick's Day on the air as part of the St Patrick Award. The 48-hour event will take place from 1200 UTC on March 16 until 1200 UTC on March 18. Saint Patrick's Day is March 17. SWLs are invited to take part. Awards will be in five categories: SPD Station Award (for registered stations); Fixed/Portable Station Award; Digital Station Award; Mobile Station Award, and Short Wave Listener Award. Register to be an official participating station. Visit the event's Facebook page. — Thanks to Bobby Wadey, MI0RYL

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/saint-patrick-s-day-special-event-set>



# Historical Information

## Kay Craigie - N3KN at the August Alford Memorial Club Meeting

[This article was originally published in the September 2015 editions of the GARZette, and is presented again at the request of the author.—Ed.]

A couple of weeks ago I attended the August meeting of the Alford Memorial Radio Club along with several other GARS members to meet and to hear Kay Craigie, N3KN. In case you don't recall, Kay is President of the American Radio Relay League, our national association. Kay is originally from Atlanta and graduated from Georgia State University in 1968 before moving to Pennsylvania where she earned a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Her father was an active ham in Atlanta and for several years a member of the Alford Memorial Club. Kay now lives in Blacksburg, VA with her husband, Carter Craigie, N3AO. She was in Atlanta for a class reunion and accepted an invitation to speak at the Alford Memorial Club meeting. Kay is a dynamic and very entertaining speaker and a great asset to our hobby.

In 1954 when I was in high school and learning Morse code and was studying to take the Novice exam, I first became an ARRL member. At that time and for many, far too many, years afterwards I had no idea of the role that the ARRL had played and continues to play in protecting our hobby so that Amateur Radio continues to exist. I simply thought of my ARRL membership as a subscription to QST Magazine. I could hardly wait each month for a new QST to arrive in the mail. In my early years, the vast majority of equipment used by hams was homebrew most often based on plans and instructions published in QST or in the ARRL Handbook. My first transmitter, a 6AG7 oscillator that, on a good day, would produce about 5 Watts output, was from a QST article that appeared a couple of months before I got my Novice license.

Moving forward through life with a wife, three boys and a career, my Ham Radioactivity came to a halt in the mid 1970's and I no longer subscribed to QST. Then, in early 2007 after retirement I decided to get back into the hobby. I had kept my license over the years (I worked darn hard to pass the Advanced Class Test!) and I still had my home brew 16 tube double-conversion superhet, Viking Ranger and other equipment although none of it had been fired up in over 30 years. I was ready, but the equipment was not! All the filter capacitors were bad after sitting idle for such a long time. HRO was glad to sell me a Kenwood TS-570 and a G5RV that got me back on the air.

Now it was time for me to subscribe to QST again, which I did. The building articles did not appeal to me anything like I remember . . . almost everything was solid state, which, from a building standpoint, didn't appeal to me. But in the process, after being licensed for over 50 years I finally became aware of what the ARRL was all about. I really don't care about QST all that much anymore from a technical standpoint, although occasionally it will "light my fire" with an antenna article, or operations, or something that not constructed with devices that don't glow in the dark. But I'm a proud member of the ARRL. There is no doubt in my mind that if it were not for the ARRL, and especially its principal founder Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, our hobby would not exist today . . . not just in the USA but throughout the world.

In her presentation to the Alford Memorial Club, Kay Kraigie shed light on many of the issues affecting our hobby over the past 100 years. One area in which she feels that the future growth of our hobby is at risk is with HOA's (Home Owner Associations), CCR's (Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions) and restrictive antenna ordinances. You may think that the Amateur Radio operator simply does not have to reside in a community with an HOA or CCR requirements, but these restrictions are becoming the norm rather than the exception.

GARS has earned ARRL Special Service Club status. This means that we are recognized as a club that exists to go above and beyond for our communities and for Amateur Radio providing active training, publicity programs, and that we actively pursue technical projects and operating activities. It is also important that we individually support the ARRL by being members of the organization. If you are not already a member, I hope that you will consider becoming one.

Submitted by: *Paul Kelly*, W4KLY



# Gwinnett ARES Highlights

By Karen Whited, AB4NW

Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday at 7:30 pm at the EOC on Hi Hope Road. If you are interested in emergency communications, contact Hall Collier W4IGE at [w4ige@arrl.net](mailto:w4ige@arrl.net).



**SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK** was February 2-7. Kevin KK4WOG conducted a simulated Skywarn net at 0900 on February 5 on the GARS 2m repeater. ARES members received pages, but in reality the notification would be via NWS severe weather texts. Kyle W4KDA served as an NWS liaison, as well as David KA4KKF checking in from the WG4EMA station at the EOC. Reportable criteria were reviewed, and there were 16 check ins with no incidents. In addition to a state HF net, a tornado drill was also conducted across Georgia involving schools, hospitals, and other institutions. The very next morning, an actual Skywarn net was held because of a tornado warning for central Gwinnett County.

## NEW APPOINTMENTS



*Glen Wendt  
W3WWT is the  
ARES Connect  
Coordinator*



*Jamie Burns  
KX4HA is the  
Nets and Skywarn  
Manager*



*Alan Murray  
W4AJM is the  
Safety Officer*

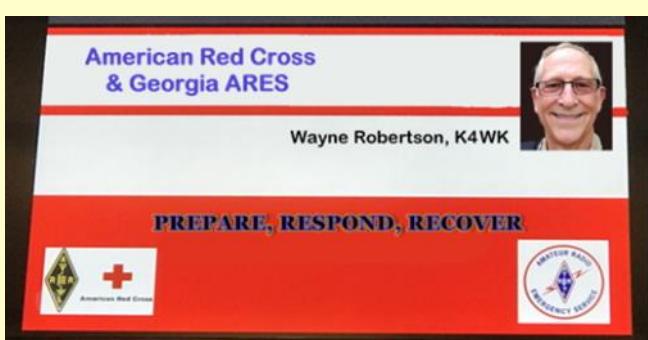
## JANUARY MEETING – January 28

Gerald Gifford, Deputy Director of Emergency Preparedness & Medical Countermeasures Coordinator for the Gwinnett-Newton-Rockdale Health Department, provided an overview of the upcoming March Georgia Public Health Department full scale exercise.



Every five years, the 18 health departments across the state conduct a **Strategic National Stockpile Exercise**. The Stockpile is a network of warehouses located throughout the USA that are repositories for prophylactic countermeasures, medications, and supplies to be used in the event of a public health emergency severe enough to cause local supplies to run out.

## FEBRUARY MEETING – February 25



Wayne Robertson K4WK, disaster volunteer with the Red Cross in Atlanta, skyped in with an overview of how ARES and the Red Cross work together. ARES participates in their drills and has been used on Super Bowl 2019 and last fall's S.E.T. In a disaster, ARES mainly passes health and welfare messages for concerned family members worrying about their loved ones. The Atlanta headquarters has a radio room (KG4ARC) with an RMS gateway, allowing contact to Atlanta. A nationwide drill will be conducted on May 30.

# Net Managers Corner

## Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

### **GARS NEEDS MEMBERS TO SERVE AS NET CONTROL STATIONS!**

**GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club** and we have the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is a very busy and active club and we use the Monday night net to get the information out to our members. Weekly participation is needed to make our net function well. There is only a small group of very dedicated people that make the net happen each week, and we need more members to volunteer to serve as Net Control Stations (NCS) on a rotating basis.

Out of almost 300 members, there are only SEVEN primary people who serve as NCS for the GARS net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

Don - KW4AL	Ray - N4GYN	Bill - KK4AUA
David - KA4KKF	Kevin - KK4WOG	Chuck - KK4TKJ
Russell - AB4QQ		

As GARS Net Manager (Chuck KK4TKJ), I really need 26 people to fill NCS positions. I do plan and post the schedule months in advance. Any conditions will be accommodated that you as a rotating NCS need to place on the scheduling of your duties. If your plans change, I can make adjustments for the schedule to work, and I will make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. As Net Manager, I also send out reminders each week to let the NCS scheduled know he or she is NCS for the next Monday night net. In short, serving as a rotating NCS is a small duty but a great contribution to the club.

The “Want, Swap, Sell Information Net” begins promptly at 19:30 every Monday night and runs about 45 minutes. As a scheduled NCS, you will request the assistance of a volunteer alternate NCS each time you have Net Control. Your simple duties will be to tune in to the GARS repeater, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact me at [KK4TKJ@arrl.net](mailto:KK4TKJ@arrl.net). Sign up to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is.

73 and see you on the Nets!

*Chuck McCord, KK4TKJ*

GARS Net Manager

# GARS Membership Page

## New GARS Members in February

**Matthew Johnson (KJ7EGB)**  
**Emlyn Murphy (KO4BTM)**  
**Peter Park (KO4BYJ)**

## New Members: 3

Total Members as of February 29, 2020  
346

Join GARS members for our weekly breakfast gathering at 7:30 AM most Saturdays  
at

Golden Corral  
2155 Riverside Parkway  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

[\(Directions\)](#)

The following members are celebrating birthdays in March:

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**  
**From All of Us at GARS**

**Deidra Atkin**  
**Shane Bailey (KN4SUV)**  
**John Bojack (N0HRM)**  
**David Bruse (W4DTR)**  
**Martin Goff (KK4EBS)**  
**James Hawkins (KF4RX)**  
**Robert Lopez (KN4NSP)**  
**Kyle Scott (KN4UWV)**  
**Pete Sheldon (KD4AKM)**  
**Madai Similao**  
**Robert Smith (KK4KHS)**  
**Thomas Tcimpidis (K6TGT)**  
**Brent Woodman (N2BAB)**  
**Ed Woodrick (WA4YIH)**

## GARS MEMBERSHIP

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter e-mail towards the bottom of the message.

To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website—<http://www.gars.org>

To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new e-mail address, new phone number, etc.), please e-mail the Membership Committee - [membership@gars.org](mailto:membership@gars.org)

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free  
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

To update your ARRL information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>

Membership Chair: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP  
Committee Members: Dave Bruse, W4DTR, Pam Meridy, WB1AKQ,  
Ivette Santiago, KN4OYE , Cathy Kelley, KN4DML

## EXTRA! EXTRA!

### Repeater Status

6M	currently down
147.075	Operational in Snellville
147.255	Operational in Snellville
224.580	Operational in Grayson
442.100	Operational at Goshen Springs
442.325	Operational in Buford
444.525	Operational in Snellville

Link remote receivers being added

### Donating to GARS

Your GARS donation can be used for a certain purpose by donating to one of these funds:

- GARS SK Memorial Fund for Education (to remember and honor Silent Keys);
- GARS Scholarship Fund (Administered by the ARRL for awarding scholarships);
- GARS General Fund (any club purpose).

GARS has joined these rewards programs (a portion of every purchase you make through these merchants may be donated to GARS):

- Amazon Smiles;
- Kroger Community Rewards program.

For more information on how to sign up for these rewards programs, or to donate to GARS, visit <http://gars.org/gars/donations-to-the-club>

### GARS on Social Media

GARS has moved to Groups.io!



Join GARS on Groups.io:  
<http://gars.org/groups.io>



Visit GARS on Facebook:  
<http://gars.org/facebook>



Follow GARS on Twitter:  
<http://gars.org/twitter>



Join GARS on YouTube:  
<http://gars.org/youtube>

## G A R S Volunteers

### OFFICERS

John Davis, President	WB4QDX	
Sandy Jackson, Vice President	KJ4DRO	
Joe Biddle, Secretary	AD4PZ	
Pam Meridy, Treasurer	WB1AKQ	
Randy Collins, Program Manager	N4COR	

### MANAGERS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Karen Albritton, Membership Chair	KI4HPP	
Dave Bruse, VE Team Leader	W4DTR	
David Adcock, Webmaster and Field Day Chair	KA4KKF	
Ralph Pickwick, Apparel Manager and Education Chair	KJ4CNC	
Glen Wendt, TechFest Chair	W3WWT	
Bill Eggers, GARzette Editor	WB2RIS	
Eddie Foust, Repeater Chair	WD4JEM	
Mike Weathers, WAS / DXCC QSL Card Checker and Historian	ND4V	
Chuck McCord, Net Manager	KK4TKJ	
Mike Swiderski, Technical / RFI Advisor	K4HBI	
Joe Biddle, Winter Field Day Chair	AD4PZ	
Kyle Albritton, Multimedia Chair	W4KDA	
Don Stewart, Elmer Manager	KW4AL	
Dave Slotter, Georgia QSO Party Chair, Workshop Leader and Public Information Officer	W3DJS	

### DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

Kyle Albritton, W4KDA		Rick Cobb, N4XYY	
Mike Weathers, ND4V		Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN W4GR Trustee	

## GARS MEETING AND WORKSHOP MINUTES

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
GENERAL Meeting Minutes  
2/11/2020

Vice-President **Sandy Jackson (KJ4DRO)** presided for John Davis (WB4QDX) and Opened the meeting at 7:00pm and Closed the meeting at 9:22pm EAA Facility, 690 Hanger Rd. Lawrenceville, GA.

**Introductions and Visitors:** Visitors were recognized and full Introductions of the [ 57 ] attendees followed.

**Treasurer Report:** Pam Meridy (WB1AKQ) – Joe Biddle (AD4PZ) read the financial report in Pam's absence.

**Membership Report:** Karen Albritton (KI4HPP) reported that Membership is at [ 341 ].

**Awards** - Phil Krajec (International Chair & Awards and recognitions chair for the NE GA Council Boy Scouts of America presented to Steve Back (WB2OGY) with the 'Amateur Radio Service Scouting Award'.

**Programs:** Randy Collins (N4COR) in Randy's absence, Sandy Announced Upcoming Programs:

- **March 2020** – Ham Radio Awards (The Fun of the Hunt)
- **April 2020** – Favorite Ham Radio Web sites and Podcasts

**GARS Workshop** - Dave (W4DTR) outlined the next workshop sessions coming up:

- **February 18** – Brush up on your life saving skills
- **March 17** – GARS Coax Cable Checkup

**Suggestions for Workshop topics – Send to [workshop@gars.org](mailto:workshop@gars.org)** or see Dave (W4DTR) or Dave (W3DJS)

**GARS Education** – Ralph (KJ4CNC) mentioned: HamCram scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. \$25 for both days including Lunch each day and the Exam. Sign up.

**Winter Field Day – Joe (AD4PZ)**

- Reported that our QSO numbers doubled from our previous effort with [662] contacts
- Thanks were express to many who helped with the operations in various forms.
- Thanks were expressed to Dave (W4DTR) for processing the Logs for Statistics and Awards and to David (KA4KKF) for capturing the Contest logs and sending them in on behalf of GARS.

**Awards were given to the following Individuals for their diligent efforts:**

- **Most Digital Contacts (55)** – Jamie Burns (KX4HA)

- **Most Phone Contacts (101)** – Dallas Mellichamp (KD4HNX)
- **Most CW Contacts (112)** – Ruth Willett (KM4LAO)
- **Most Contacts Overall (170)** - Ruth Willett (KM4LAO)

**TechFest** - Glen (W3WWT) January 18th, 2020.

- 346 attended.
- Major Prize Winners:
  - ICOM IC-7300 - **Dallas Mellichamp (KD4HNX)**
  - Yaesu FTM-400XDR/DE **Eddie Foust (WD4JEM)**
  - Kenwood-TS-590SG **Craig Bailey (KN4DLS)**
  - Yaesu FT-4x Dual-Band Ht **Mark Clark (NI2Y)**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Chile Cook Off Winner – **Jean Delashmit (KM4FVO)**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Chile Cook Off Winner – **Randy Collins (N4COR)**

**Georgia QSO Party** - Dave (W3DJS) announced that this contest will be April 11<sup>th</sup> &12<sup>th</sup>.

**Fund Raiser**

**(Dog Show)** - – David (KA4KKF) March 26 - 29 at the Gwinnett Fairgrounds. 5:30am - 2 pm. Mark your calendars. Sign up on GARS.org

**GARS Officers Elections** – Earl (AF4FG) read the nomination slate, consisting of:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John (WB4QDX)	President
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sandy (KJ4DRO)	Vice President
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe (AD4PZ)	Secretary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pam (WB1AKQ)	Treasurer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Randy (N4COR)	Program

No additional Nominations were presented upon a call to do so.

A motion was presented to vote in the current slate by acclamation. The statement was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

**Break:**.....

**Program** – AM/FM/TV Digital Broadcasting By Kevin Scott, K4GTR

Submitted by: Joe Biddle (AD4PZ), GARS Secretary

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(No Workshop Minutes Available)

## ARRL CONTESTING INFO

From ARRL Contest Calendar  
> For more information click the links <

**March 2020**

7-8 [International DX – Phone](#)

**April 2020**

19 [Rookie Roundup – Phone](#)

(no ARRL contests in May)

**June 2020**

13-15 [June VHF](#)

20 [Kid's Day](#)

27-28 [Field Day](#)

**July 2020**

11-12 [IARU HF World Championship](#)

**August 2020**

1-2 [222 MHz and Up Distance Contest](#)

15-16 [10 GHz & Up – Round 1](#)

16 [Rookie Roundup – RTTY](#)

**September 2020**

12-13 [EME - 2.3 GHz & Up](#)

12-14 [September VHF](#)

19-20 [10 GHz & Up - Round 2](#)

**October 2020**

10-11 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

19-23 [School Club Roundup](#)

**November 2020**

7-9 [Nov. Sweepstakes - CW](#)

21-23 [Nov. Sweepstakes - Phone](#)

28-29 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

**December 2020**

4-6 [160 Meter](#)

12-13 [10 Meter](#)

20 [Rookie Roundup-CW](#)

**January 2021**

1 [Straight Key Night](#)

2 [Kid's Day](#)

2-3 [RTTY Roundup](#)

16-18 [January VHF Sweepstakes](#)

**February 2021**

8-12 [School Club Roundup](#)

20-21 [International DX – CW](#)

For more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

## HAMFEST CALENDAR

**03/06/2020 | [Alabama Section Convention \(BirmingHamfest\)](#)**

Location: Trussville, AL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Birmingham Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://birminghamfest.org>

**03/13/2020 | [Charlotte Hamfest, ARRL North Carolina Section Convention 2020](#)**

Location: Concord, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.charlottehamfest.org>

**04/11/2020 - [Raleigh Hamfest, ARRL Roanoke Division Convention](#)**

Location: Raleigh, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://rarsfest.org>

**04/25/2020 - [Calhoun Hamfest](#)**

Location: Resaca, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.k4woc.com>

**04/25/2020 - [Savannah Area SwapMeet and Hamfest](#)**

Location: Savannah, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Coastal Amateur Radio Society

Website: [http://coastalamateurradiosociety.net/wpW4LHSblog/?page\\_id=871](http://coastalamateurradiosociety.net/wpW4LHSblog/?page_id=871)

**05/15/2020 | [2020 ARRL National Convention at Dayton Hamvention®](#)**

Location: Xenia, OH

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://hamvention.org>

For more information: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

When searching by division, remember some states adjacent to GA are in different divisions:

Southeastern: GA, AL, FL Delta: TN Roanoke: NC, SC

## GARS Events Calendar for 2020

TechFest ( <a href="http://www.techfest.info">www.techfest.info</a> )	January 18
Winter Field Day	January 25&26
General HamCram	TBD
Dog Show Fundraiser	March 26-29
Georgia QSO Party	April 11 (We will not operate on the 12th)
North metro area Fox Hunt	April
May Madness	May
Memorial Day Parade	May 25
ARC/KARC Hamfest	June 6
Field Day	June 27&28
Tech HamCrams	Mar 7&14, Nov
JOTA	October
Maker Faire	TBD
Stone Mt. Hamfest	November 7&8
Holiday Party	December

### April GARS Meeting:

**Favorite Internet Web Sites by Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN**

## GARS Recurring Calendar

- ◆ 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly Club Meeting
- ◆ 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly Workshop
- ◆ 2nd Sunday of the Month at 2 pm: [GARS Ham Exam Session](#)  
Fire Station #24  
2735 Mall of Georgia Blvd  
Buford, GA 30519
- ◆ Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ◆ Every Monday at 8:30 pm: ARES Training on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ◆ Most Saturdays at 7:30 am: GARS Weekly Breakfast  
Golden Corral Restaurant  
2155 Riverside Parkway,  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

## GARS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MARCH 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2  7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	3	4	5	6	7 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast  <b>Tech HamCram @ Gwinnett EOC Day 1</b>
8	9  <b>GARS VE Team Testing Session Starts at 2:00 pm</b>  7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	10  5:00 - 6:30 pm Dinner  7:00 - 9:00 pm GARS Meeting	11	12	13	14 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast  <b>Tech HamCram @ Gwinnett EOC Day 2</b>
15	16  7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	17  5:00 - 6:30 pm Dinner 7:00 - 9:00 pm GARS Workshop <b>HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!</b>	18	19	20	21 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
22	23  7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	24	25  	26  Lake Lanier Cluster Dog Show Day 1	27  Lake Lanier Cluster Dog Show Day 2	28 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast Dog Show  Day 3
29	30  <b>Lake Lanier Cluster Dog Show Day 4</b>  	31	April 1	April 2	April 3	April 4 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive

## Metro Testing Sessions

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in, unless otherwise noted. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at <http://www.arrl-ga.org>.

### First Sunday, ODD Months

2 pm (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov)  
VEC: WCARS  
Braselton Public Utility Building  
4986 Highway 53, Braselton, GA  
Contact: Roger Gibson, WB4T  
(770) 271-4210 or (770) 712-9560  
[w4rlg@bellsouth.net](mailto:w4rlg@bellsouth.net)

### First Sunday, EVEN Months

2 pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)  
VEC: WCARS  
Hall County EOC  
470 Crescent Dr. Gainesville, Ga.  
Contact: Perry Roper, KO4RD  
(770) 536-3056

### Second Saturday

10:00 AM  
Alpharetta North Park, Adult Activities Center  
13450 Cogburn Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30004  
Contact: Ian Kahn, KM4IK  
E-mail: [km4ik.ian@gmail.com](mailto:km4ik.ian@gmail.com)

### Third Saturday, ODD Months

VEC: ARRL  
9:30 am (Walk-ins welcome)  
Stone Mountain Masonic Lodge  
840 VFW Drive  
Stone Mountain, GA 30083  
Contact: Frank Haynes, KV4SP  
Email: [fhaynes@vatmom.net](mailto:fhaynes@vatmom.net)  
(678) 467-3712

### Second Sunday

VEC: W5YI  
2 pm  
Fire Station #24  
Mall of Georgia Boulevard  
Buford, GA 30519  
Contact: Dave Bruse, W4DTR  
E-mail: [exams@gars.org](mailto:exams@gars.org)

### First Sunday, EVEN Months

VEC: WCARS and W5YI  
2 pm @ Barrow Co. Emerg. Serv. Bldg  
66 McElroy Street  
Winder, GA 30680  
Contact: Mike Wolcott, W4WYI  
(404) 281-6581  
E-mail: [W4WYI@ARRL.net](mailto:W4WYI@ARRL.net)

(cont. next column)

### Fourth Tuesday

## Ham Exam Results

### March Results

We had a good crowd for the exam session on Sunday, March 8, 2020. Fifteen individuals showed up for exams and fourteen were successful as follows:

- Six new Technician Class;
- Two new General Class (passed Technician and General exams during the session);
- Four upgrades to General Class;
- Two upgrades to Amateur Extra Class.

As usual, this exam session would not have been possible without our team of Volunteer Examiners. The following VE's helped with this session and they are much appreciated:

- Richard, KM4SWL
- Frank, KV4SP
- Russell, AB4QQ
- Robert, K4CQO
- Pam, WB1AKQ
- Dave, W4DTR (CVE)
- Bill, WB4WTN
- Bill, WR1TR

73, *Don*, KK4NJM (Co-CVE)

GARS VE Team Leaders  
E-mail: [exams@gars.org](mailto:exams@gars.org)

GARS VE Website:  
<http://gars.org/exams>

ARRL VEC  
7 pm @ United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Rd., Douglasville  
Contact: Jessie Clower, KB4WFK  
(770) 942-6466

### Fourth Sunday

2:30 pm Georgia Tech  
VanLeer Elec. Building  
Rm. W218, 777 Atlantic Dr.  
For more information go to  
[www.w4aqi.com](http://www.w4aqi.com) and click on "Test Sessions"

## Metro Club Meetings

### First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC  
Fire Station #1, Training Room  
112 Haynes Street, Marietta, GA  
Meeting begins at 7:00pm  
Talk In 146.880(-)

### First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club  
Georgia Red Cross HQ  
1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta, GA  
Meeting is at 7:30pm  
Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

Commerce Public Library  
1344 South Broad Street, Commerce,  
GA  
Meeting is at 6:30pm  
Talk In - 147.225(+), PL 123.0

### Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC  
Room W218  
Van Leer Electrical Engineering Bldg.  
Georgia Tech Campus  
Meeting at 7:00pm

Sawnee Amateur Radio Association  
Beaver Toyota  
1875 Buford Highway, Cumming, GA  
Meeting at 6:30

### Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club  
Annistown Road Baptist Church  
Annistown Rd & Spain Rd  
Stone Mountain, GA  
Dinner at 6:00pm, Meeting at 7:30pm  
Talk In - 146.760(-)

### Second Saturday

North GA QRP Club  
Board Room of The Shepherd Center  
2020 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta, GA  
at 10:00 AM

### Third Tuesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio League  
Alpharetta Recreation & Parks Dept  
Alpharetta Adult Activity Center  
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA  
meeting at 7:30pm  
Talk In - 145.47(-)

For more information, go to:  
<http://www.gars.org/>

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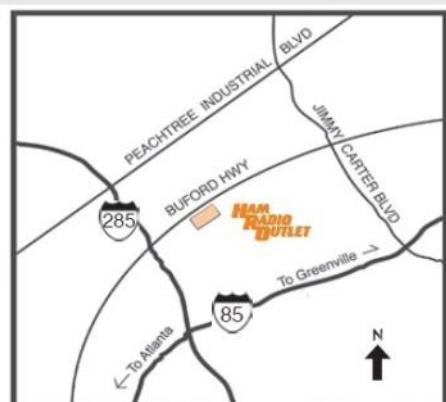
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